



## Module 6: Reporting and monitoring food hazards



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## Learning objectives

At the end of 'Module 6 – Reporting and monitoring food hazards' you will be able to:

1

Define the role of  
Environmental Health  
Officers



2

List the penalties for  
breaches of the regulations

3

Explain your role in  
monitoring and reporting  
processes

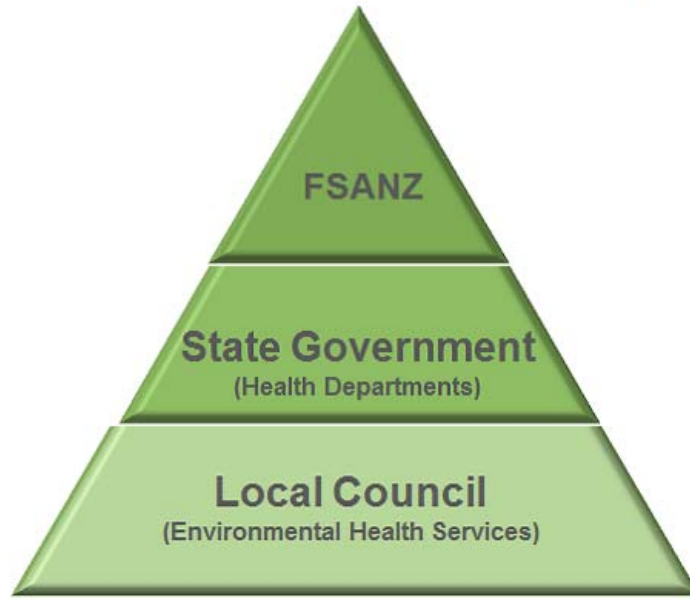


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## Key regulatory bodies - Recap



- **Investigating** reports of foodborne illness
- Providing **advice** to the food business or **prosecuting** for a breach of the regulations

- Conducting routine **inspections** of food businesses
- **Auditing** Food Safety Programs





## Environmental Health Officers

**Representatives** of the State Government Health Departments and the Local Council Environmental Health Services:

- Environmental Health Officers (EHO's)
- Health Inspectors
- Health and Building Inspectors
- Health Surveyors
- Health and Building Surveyors
- Food Surveillance Officers



- Ad hoc inspection
- Routine inspection
- Investigation
- Audit of the Food Safety Program

### Environmental Health Officers

Have power under the laws to:

- enter a property at any time – 'right of entry'
- enter any area
- go through the property - 'power to inspect'
- collect samples of food and beverages
- close a property down immediately
- give a warning with set time limits
- impose fines or have the owner charged





## Auditing of Food Safety Programs

Food safety programs are monitored and audited by the **Environmental Health Officers**.

Food businesses that are required to have a food safety program must **prepare** for their audit and ensure that:

- the food safety program is set out as a **written** document
- the food safety program is **audited** on a regular basis by an **approved** food safety auditor
- the appropriate **records** are made **available** to any food safety auditor
- **copies** are retained (four years).





## Penalties for breaches of regulations

Environmental Health Officers may **identify breaches** of the Food Act and supporting regulations during a range of activities such as **inspections, investigations and audits**.

Some of the **breaches** include **knowingly** or **negligently**:

- handling food in unsafe way
- selling unsafe food
- describing food falsely.



### Overview of penalties

- Vary for each state
- Some states use penalty points:
  - Each point costs \$100 (individual) and up to \$550 (business)
  - Maximum penalty is up to 5000 points or \$500,000 (individual) and up to \$2.75 million (business)
- States that don't use the penalty point system:
  - Fines of up to \$100,000 (individual) \$375,000 (business)
- All states include possibility of **jail**.



[Regulations for each state](#)

Replay

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## What does this mean to you?

As a food handler, you play an important role in monitoring and reporting processes.

### Monitoring

- You must **follow** your workplace hygiene **procedures** at all times
- If your food business is inspected, investigated or audited, **your activities** may be **observed** by the Environmental Health Officer
- If you are found to have personally **breached** the regulations, knowingly and negligently, you may be subject to a **penalty** or **prosecution**



### Reporting

You must report to your supervisor:

- any **personal illness** or **symptoms** of illness that may cause contamination
- any **known** or **suspected** instance of food **contamination**
- any customer **complaint** of food contamination or foodborne illness



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## Reporting complaints of foodborne illness

### Reported illness

Get details:

- Time and date of the report
- Name, address and contact details of person reporting the illness
- How many people are allegedly ill
- Time, date, what foods were eaten
- What food(s) the person suspects
- Suspected food in their possession

### Supervisor or business owner

- Immediately inform your supervisor
- Package suspected contaminated food
- Refrigerate it
- Keep it isolated
- Review Food Safety Program
- Notify the Local Environmental Health Services

### State Health Department or Local Environmental Health Services

- Will then start an investigation
- Advise business
- Conduct audit of Food Safety Program
- Make recommendations
- May impose penalties or charges







## Module Summary

Congratulations! You have now completed Module 6 – Reporting and monitoring food hazards.

You should now be able to:

-  Define the role of Environmental Health Officers
-  List the penalties for breaches of the regulations
-  Explain your role in monitoring and reporting processes

You can now return to the home page and proceed to the final module which is a summary of the key areas covered in this course.

